

THE RAFTERS RANG

With the Singing of the Christian Endeavorers.

A CYCLONE OF ENTHUSIASM

At the Big Meetings and Myriads of Bright Remarks—Two Thousand Others.

"Will all the speakers and all those that can sing, please come up here on the platform, now," said L. L. Roby, the state secretary. That is what the great Christian Endeavor state convention began with at 3 o'clock yesterday afternoon. The First Presbyterian church was crowded.

"Now, let's all rise and sing All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name," and the audience sang it with an enthusiasm that made the decorations flutter. Prof. Samuel Tracy was a good leader. It is indeed inspiring to hear an audience of 2,000 singing the grand old gospel hymns, and especially these young Christians.

"The people of Topeka are always glad to welcome all things that are good," said Mayor Harrison. "There are two things I like about this society. I like the 'society' of young people, and I like the 'society' because you are the people from among all the people."

"The question is often asked: What church would Christ join if he were on earth? I say, none! What political party would he join? I say, none!"

"If he joined any association he would join the Christian Endeavorers."

And such applause at the close of his speech of welcome was never heard in Topeka. Christian Endeavorers don't applaud like they were afraid of being sacrilegious. They applaud just like a political convention; only more so. Some of the young ladies unable to control their feelings squealed in their delight. This made things interesting.

Rev. W. L. Byers of North Topeka, said: "Everybody, from Susan B. Anthony down to Simpson comes to Topeka. You are not here like some, to get offices to advance their own cause, nor like the Coxeyites who wish to plunder. I welcome you in behalf of the pastors and churches of the city."

The songs of the convention are very well selected and the way they are sung shows that everyone means what he or she is singing. The delegates are "tickled to death" with Topeka and her people.

Rev. A. F. Irwin of Hutchinson said: "I believe this is the best governed city in the United States. We are glad to come to Topeka. We are not like a crowd that came up here two years ago, led by Douglas, Dunsmore and the devil. The people of Topeka learned to like sensible things, but they don't seem to harm your city." And they don't look like they would.

Rev. F. E. Clark, the national president of the Christian Endeavorers, was present and when introduced they didn't cheer him, or clap their hands. They gave him even a more hearty welcome than that—they gave him the Chautauque salute. The Chautauque salute is like this:

Somebody suddenly to be honored is introduced. Suddenly the whole human sea is ruffled with an inaudible wind which tosses it into foam. The whole human sea flashes white, like a popper full of corn at the right moment. The means everybody waves his or her handkerchief.

Dr. Clark is a fine looking man of medium height, with sideburns slightly tinged with gray. He is a good talker. He told of his work somewhat in this country and in Australia. He wears the gold emblem of the society on his watch chain. A good sized diamond is set in the center of it.

But the most interesting services that the Endeavorers have are the prayer meetings. They enjoy them as much as the small boy does a nice big piece of bread butter with sugar on it, when he's hungry.

Rev. C. A. Forbes led the prayer meeting. "Now, I would like about seven short prayers," and they were given quickly. They weren't the long, dry prayers that are sometimes heard. They were practical prayers.

At the Evening Meeting, "Can't you find any more chairs?" was the cry last evening at the First Presbyterian church. The answer invariably was, "No, there are no more." Rev. W. L. Byers invited those who were standing to go to Representative hall, as there were plenty of seats there. But nobody wanted to go.

The Wichita chorals sang a pretty melody with appropriate words set to it. Rev. W. C. Vazie thanked the Lord for pleasant weather.

"I want to introduce a man who won't make a speech," he said. He introduced to the audience, the treasurer, Mr. Geo. O. Foster, of Lawrence. He made a bow and Rev. Mr. Byers said that he hoped all who had paid up their dues, would hunt up Mr. Foster and settle with him. Prof. D. S. Kelly's annual address as the retiring state president of the society, was interesting.

He is a nervous man, and talks rapidly. He urged the societies to try to quell any discord that might be in the societies by praying with those who are not in accord with the others.

He congratulated the delegates from Kansas City, Kans., on their efforts in trying to blot out the gambling evil. The closest attention was paid to the speaker, and his remarks seemed to just suit the Endeavorers. There were fully 2,300 pairs of eyes riveted on the president, and that many pairs of ears intent upon hearing every word that was spoken. Some of the absent-minded ones sat with their mouths open.

Christian Endeavorers like to give their money to the advancement of the cause of Christ.

When the "hat" was passed the Endeavorers, and their friends—for there were lots of friends there—put in their part. The main feature of the evening, of course, was the address of Dr. F. E. Clark. Rev. Mr. Byers spoke of him in introducing him, as "the father of Christian Endeavor." He said:

"I am heartily in favor of this mother's Christian Endeavor movement. We have a Junior League, and there ought to be a Mother's C. E., for there ought to be something for everyone to do."

He paid a tribute to Topeka, its Christian Endeavor societies. He held that consecration was a very important feature in the life of a society. Dr. Clark is the author of numerous Christian Endeavor tracts, and has traveled all over the world.

Dr. Clark talked for over an hour, but the Christian Endeavorers didn't get tired. They could have listened to him all night. A small matter of time is nothing to the Christian Endeavorers; they are working for eternity.

Miss Margaret Horne sang "The Worker" in a forcible manner. She pleased the audience very much with her rendition of the solo, which was sung as one of the contest numbers at Hutchinson.

A novelty that was introduced was the singing of "At the Cross," as the immense crowd dispersed. The Endeavorers sang it for at least a block after leaving the church.

At Representative Hall.

While the constitutional and legally organized Christian Endeavor convention was playing to a packed house at the Presbyterian church, about a thousand Christians endeavored and successfully to get into Representative hall at the capitol, where an overflow convention had been advertised.

Historic, war-scarred Representative hall was not itself last night. It is doubtful if Speaker Douglass or Speaker Dunsmore or Bill Higgins would have recognized it. A big banner was suspended from the center chandelier bearing the inscription "For Christ and the Church." Society emblems were everywhere. Where party enthusiasm was wont to raise the roof, such songs of praise as "Onward, Christian Soldier" filled every nook and corner of the vast hall. The atmosphere in the hall, which is usually akin to that of a jury room and blue with tobacco smoke, was last night filled with an air of spirituality and devotion and the choicest perfumes.

Rev. J. B. Thomas was the "speaker" of the service, and he recognized Rev. J. F. Cowan, the gentleman from Pittsburg, Pa., who made an able and scholarly address on "Methods, Principles and Enthusiasm."

Prof. D. S. Kelly of Lyon county made the president's annual address.

Speaker Thomas led the singing and "jollied" the people into giving a liberal collection.

At the Church This Morning.

The Endeavorers filled the First Presbyterian church again this morning and many had to stand up back of the pews. It wasn't a sleepy, droopy audience either. Almost all of them had attended the sunrise prayer meeting at the First Christian church, the Central Congregational church, and the North Topeka Congregational church. They were bright and cheerful. They didn't look cross—Christian Endeavorers learn to be cheerful; that's the first and most important thing to learn.

National President Dr. F. E. Clark said: "You all know about the Coxey armies that are going over the country, not particularly to get work, but to be fed and sheltered. I'm glad to see such a large Coxey army as this." This made the Endeavorers laugh. Then the doctor said: "In the ranks of the unemployed there are two classes—those who would work if they could procure it, and then those who would not work if it was offered to them. They are mere tramps going about living on other people's resources."

Dr. Clark is a magnetic speaker. One man, an evangelist living in this city, with flowing auburn sideburns, who was leaning against a radiator, became so interested that his mouth was wide open. That didn't interfere with his enjoying every word. Dr. Clark said that England had had a taste of the unemployed also.

"There is a problem of the unemployed in every church," I don't want this to be taken as a political speech for any political party. I want to make this a Christian speech. We are not going to vote for any one political party. We are going to vote so that it will make this country more Christ-like. We will vote for a man that we think is best fitted for the place."

Dr. Clark said he had a little mathematical problem that he wanted to tell the Endeavorers. He said: "There are 1,500,000 Christian Endeavorers, not counting the Juniors. It is safe to say that 300,000 of these are wage earners. The average income is \$500 a year.

"Ten \$500 multiplied by 30,000 makes \$15,000,000. Now if a tenth of the income were given to this work, then there would be \$1,500,000."

State Secretary L. L. Roby's annual report interested the Endeavorers greatly. Here are some of the figures that make the hearts of the Endeavorers glad: In 1892 there were 381 Christian Endeavor societies, and 61 Junior Christian Endeavor societies. In 1893 the numbers had grown to 564 C. E.'s, and 123 Juniors, and at the present time there are 717 C. E.'s, 225 Juniors, three intermediate and five Mother's societies. This makes a total of 650 Christian Endeavor societies in the state of Kansas.

Mr. Roby has held his office for two years, and has given a great deal extra time to the work. He is a great favorite with the Endeavorers.

The state treasurer, Mr. Geo. O. Foster, made his annual report. He said: "I didn't get to talk last night, but I wanted to." He said that there was about \$293 to be raised to settle the debts incurred during the past year. The Endeavorers will settle this debt though before they leave, for they believe in paying as they go; or rather before they go.

The most interesting of all meetings of the convention are the reports from the different districts of the state. Such enthusiasm! One man gets up and says: "We're alive, and we are growing." Then another district president gets up and tells of his district. One lady arose and said: "We are alive, and next year we will be live-er."

The Christian Endeavorers enjoy a joke just as much as anybody else. In fact they seem to enjoy a good joke in a more wholesome manner than other people.

D. R. Lowell, chaplain in the United States army at Ft. Riley, is a Christian Endeavorer. He told the Endeavorers that there was a Christian Endeavor society at the barracks at Ft. Riley. "I bring you greetings from an unusual source. I bring you greetings from the regular army of the United States. What are you going to do with the United States army? We are some of us good sometimes, and in spots." In speaking of the kind of men that the army is composed of, he said: "I know of five Methodist preachers' sons in the army, and I think you could find as many of other denominations. I come to ask you to study us—see whether or not we are sober—study how we live. Then lend a hand to us. If you can't help the United States army, no organization can."

"We have two army officers who are Christian Endeavorers." This pleased the Endeavorers, and they clapped their hands enthusiastically.

"Again, I bring you greeting and benedictions from the United States army."

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Dr. Clark's Question Box.

Dr. F. E. Clark's "question box" was very enjoyable. All formality was laid aside, and the Endeavorers asked him questions and they were answered.

"I have a request here," said Dr. Clark, "which I had hoped would not be made, but I'll try to answer it. It is the question: 'What is to be done with the Christian Endeavorers who insist on dancing and playing cards?'"

"Well, that used to be asked very often, but that question isn't asked half as often as it used to be."

This made the Endeavorers glad, for they don't care to indulge in worldly amusements.

The "Pastor's Period" is one of the happy services of the convention. It is a kind of "love feast." The preachers were limited to speak only two minutes. This was pretty hard for them to do.

The Baptist was represented by Rev. F. J. Rice of Augusta, the Christian by Rev. B. T. Wharton of Paola, the Lutheran by Rev. J. G. Griffith of Lawrence, the Church of God by Elder E. T. Turpin of this city, the Methodist Episcopal by Rev. W. J. Osborne of Kansas City, the Methodist Protestant by Rev. S. W. Martin of Peabody, the Presbyterian by Rev. F. H. Gamel of Cherryvale, the Reformed Church by Rev. L. S. Faust of Iola, the Reformed Presbyterian by Mrs. T. J. Allen of Sterling, and the United Presbyterian by Rev. M. F. McKirahan of this city.

The preachers invariably began with "Mr. Chairman and fellow-workers—It gives me great pleasure to speak to you today. When the secretary informed me that I was to confine my remarks to two minutes, I didn't see how I was to

do it, but—" and hardly any of them got "wound up" in two minutes.

The Wichita people want the next meeting of the convention at that place. They have had a large number of doggers printed which resemble a ribbon badge. Printed on the paper is "Wichita, '95."

The Holton chorals are present, and they sing very well. The leader is a musician, and he also leads the congregational singing.

"FOR CHRIST AND THE CHURCH."

The Objects of the Young People's Society of Christian Endeavor is "to promote an earnest Christian life among its members and to increase their mutual acquaintance." It is undenominational and most of the evangelical churches have local societies.

The principal feature of the society is the weekly prayer meeting about which all the other work revolves. The membership of the society is divided into two classes, active and associate; the active members are members of the church and they hold the offices and do the voting. The associate members have the privileges of all the entertainments and meetings held by the society of which they are members.

The class of work done is shown by the weekly prayer meeting about which all the other work revolves. The "Look-out committee" brings in the new members. The "Prayer Meeting committee" assigns the leaders and the topics for the weekly prayer meeting. The "Social committee" arranges for entertainments and socials and makes the members acquainted with one another. The "Executive committee" looks after all the business of the society. Then most societies have a "Sunday School committee" which hunts up new scholars; a "Music committee" which arranges the singing; a missionary committee which has its special work to do; a flower committee which supplies flowers for the pulpit on Sunday and then distributes them among the sick members; a temperance committee; a relief committee to look after the sick and destitute, and a good literature committee, which sees that the members are supplied with religious papers and give tracts to the unconverted.

The Christian Endeavor society is in reality the training school for the church, as the motto indicates it is, "For Christ and the Church."

Judge Samuel P. Wheeler of Springfield, Ill., is visiting W. A. Sloc for a few days.

GLADSTONE DOING WELL

The Operation on His Eye Was Simply to Strengthen It.

LONDON, May 25.—Dr. S. H. Habershon, one of the surgeons who took part in the operation yesterday upon Mr. Gladstone's right eye, says that the main task of the doctors was to increase the sight and strengthen the eye, and that there is no reason why this should not be accomplished.

The following bulletin has been issued: Mr. Gladstone has passed a quiet night, free from discomfort. His eye is progressing quite well, and his general health is excellent.

Parties going to Emporia will find the Leland Hotel, opposite Santa Fe depot, a first-class house on American and European plan. Lunch counter and restaurant open all night.

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